

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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-----050306 172306Z /70

O 172142Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5372

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2907

E.O. 11652 XGDS-2

TAGS SHUM, AR

SUBJECT HUMAN RIGHTS BALANCE SHEET

REF: A STATE 96048; B BUENOS AIRES 965

1. DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE LATE
LAST NOVEMBER, THREE BASIC AREAS OF UNITED STATES
CONCERN REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
ARGENTINA WERE PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA
AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE GOA. THE FIRST
AND MOST IMPORTANT RELATED TO NORMALIZATION OF
THE GOVERNMENTS ANTI TERRORIST AND ANTI SUBVERSIVE
EFFORTS BY REPLACING CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS WITH
TRADITIONAL ARGENTINE POLICE AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURES.
THE SECOND AREA OF CONCERN RELATED TO THE TREATMENT,
RECOGNITION, AND PROCESSING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND
STATE OF SIEGE PRISONERS BEING HELD WITHOUT CHARGES.
LASTLY, CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED FOR SPECIAL CASES OF
HIGH POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN THE US

2. CREDITES AND DEBITS

A. DECEMBER 1977

FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF ISSUED VERBAL ORDER AGAINST
ILLEGAL ARRESTS.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PERMITTED TO RESUME PRISON

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VISITS TO PEN DETAINEES.

--- 13 PERSONS ASSICATED WITH THE MOTHERS OF THE
MAYO DE PLAZA ABDUCTED, INCLUDING TWO FRENCH NUNS.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENE
PRESIDENT EMILIO DADDARIO CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY
GOA AUTHORITIES.

--- VIDELA ANNOUNCED TO BRITISH NEWMEN THE END OF ARMED

WARFARE, BUT NOT THE END OF THE NEED FOR REPRESSION
OF OTHER DISSIDENTS "A MINORITY WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED
ARGENTINE."

--- ARGENTINE BISHOPS CONFERENCE PRESENTED HUMAN RIGHTS
DOCUMENT TO GOVERNMENT CITING NO HUMAN RIGHTS
IMPROVEMENT SINCE MAY 1977.

--- AIRLINE POLITS LAWYER DISAPPEARED BEFORE THREATENED
PILOTS STRIKE; LATER RELEASED.

--- PROMINENT JOURNALIST GUAGNINI AND HIS MISTRESS
DISAPPEARED; MISTRESS RELEASED.

GOA REMOVED 389 PERSONS FROM PEN STATUS; MAJORITY
FREED.

--- LILIANA AND ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH ACQUITTED OF
CRIMINAL CHARGES, BUT PLACED UNDER PEN.

--- OVER 30 URUGUAYAN REFUGEES DISAPPEARED IN LATE
DECEMBER AND JANUARY; UNHCR BELIEVES REFOULMENT.

--- CONTINUING REPORTS OF THE DISAPPEARANCES OF LABOR
ACTIVISTS.

B. JANUARY 1978

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CATHOLIC JURISTS (PAX ROMANA)
DELEGATION CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS.

--- DEUTSCH AND OTHER JEWISH FAMILIES IN CORDOBA
THREATENED.

C. FEBRUARY 1978

VILLA DEVOTO PEN PRISONER LIST PUBLISHED.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS QUERIED EMBASSY REGARDING
US RESPONSE TO GOA POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS.

--- RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS RE REGISTRATION DECREE ISSUED.

LA PLATA PEN PRISONER LIST ANNOUNCED.

CORONDA PEN PRISONER LIST ANNOUNCED.

--- FOUR PRISONERS RELEASED FROM LA PLATA PRISON AT
MIDNIGHT DISAPPEAR.

SIERRA CHICA PEN PRISONER LIST ANNOUNCED.

D. MARCH 1978

FOUR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK;
LATER GIVEN PERMANENT RESIDENCY.

RAWSON PEN PRISON LIST ANNOUNCED

--- OAS INTER AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PROPOSAL
TO VISIT ARGENTINA LEAKED TO PRESS; "POPULAR"
COMMITTEE FORMED TO DISSUADE GOVERNMENT FROM ACCEPTING.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA AND OTHER
SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS.

--- PROMINENT MEDICAL RESEARCHER, DR WEINSTEIN DISAPPEARED;
LATER RELEASED AFTER QUESTIONING REGARDING POSSIBLE
ERP AFFILIATION. (SECRET - XGDS-2)

CHACO PEN PRISONER LIST ANNOUNCED.

--- A NUMBER OF BODIES REPORTED WASHED ASHORE ON
ARGENTINE COAST.

ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH RELEASED FROM EXECUTIVE DETENTION.

--- SIX MEMBER OF SILOIST INNER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION
ARRESTED FOR NO APPARENT REASON.

FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCED THAT 334 POLICEMENT WERE
DISMISSED FOR IMPROPER PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN 1977.

--- 19 JEHOVAHS WITNESSES ARRESTED AND LATER RELEASED IN
MAR DEL PLATA.

--- OVER 20 PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH EASTER MEMORIAL MASS
AT SAN JUSTO CHURCH AND PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO
COMUNISTA MEDICAL ACTION PROGRAM ABDUCTED; ONE DOCTOR
LATER RELEASED.

NINE PROVINCIAL PEN PRISON LISTS ANNOUNCED.

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--- ARMY COMMANDERS DECIDE NOT TO CHANGE METHODOLOGY
OF ANTI SUBVERSION CAMPAIGN DUE TO WORLD CUP (SECRET XGDS-2).
E. APRIL 1978

--- LABOR LAWYER PEN PRISONER RELEASED AT MIDNIGHT FROM
LA PLATA PRISON ABDUCTED AND LATER FOUND MURDERED.

PEN PRISONERS HELD IN 11 OTHER PROVINCIAL JAILS
ANNOUNCED.

FEDERAL POLICE ANNOUNCED NAMES OF 232 PERSON

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O 172142Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5373

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2907

REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARED WHO HAVE BEEN
LOCATED DURING 1978.

FEDERAL POLICE PUBLISHED NOTICE OF POLICE REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION IN VIEW OF IMPOSTERS USING POLICE CREDENTIALS.

SINCE CHRISTMAS THE NAMES OF 264 PERSONS HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER PEN STATUS, 181 PERSONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR THE PEN, 43 WERE GRANTED THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO LEAVE ARGENTINA, 16 HAVE BEEN EXPELLED.

SENIOR ARGENTINE MILITARY OFFICER INFORMED MILITARY ATTACHE THAT ARMED FORCES ARE RETURNING TO "MORE NORMAL" LEGAL PROCEDURES IN APPREHENDING AND PROCESSING SUSPECTE SUBVERSIVES.

PRESIDENT VIDELA TOLD AMBASSADOR AND CINCSOUTH COMMANDER MCAULIFFE THAT WAR AGAINST TERRORISM IS OVER, AND THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING HARD TO RETURN TO A RULE OF LAW.

JACOBO TIMERMAN REMOVED FROM PRISON AND PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

3. CONCLUSION

SINCE THE SECRETARYS VISIT THE GOA HAS TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS REGARDING REGUALRIZAING THE DETENTION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE POWER (PEN) PRISONERS. THE GOVERN ENT HAS ALSO TAKEN ACTION ON SEVERAL OF OUR SPECIAL INTEREST CASES. HOWEVER, THE GOA HAS NOT MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT
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CHANGES IN ITS ANTI TERRORIST CAMPAIGN METHODS. IN THIS AREA, THERE MAY BE SOME BROADENING OF THE TARGETS AGAINST WHICH THE SECURITY FORCES ARE OPERATING AS THE PERCEIVED THREATS TO THE GOVERNMENT CHANGE. THUS, AS USUAL THE HUMAN RIGHTS BALANCE SHEET FOR ARGENTINA IS MIXED. PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE AREA WHERE THERE IS LESS SECURITY CONCERN AND WHERE THEINTERNAL COSTS FOR CHANGE TO THE ARGENTINE MILITARY ARE LESS. THE GOVERNMENTS EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE THE FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL BENEFITS FROM THESE POSITIVE ACTIONS HAS BEEN INCREASE. THIS LATTER POINT IS PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAST FOUR AND HALF MONTHS. GOA OFFICIALS NOW ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY THAT THE GOVERNMENTS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE HAS FALLEN AND THEY ARE TRYING TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO IMPROVE IT. THE BISHOP OF PARIS REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY TO HOLD A MEMORIAL MASS FOR NATIONAL HERO SAN MARTIN CRYSTALIZED THE GOVERNMENTS IMAGE PROBLEM HERE. THE GOA IS NOW TAKING THOSE FIRST AND RELATIVELY EASY STEPS TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE.
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